

Minutes of the RHIC/AGS Users' Group Executive Committee Meeting 18 July 2003

Present: C. Scarlett, M. Sivertz, S. White-DePace, P. Yamin (Secretary)

Telephone: V. Greene, J. Hill, S. Johnson, R. Seto, G. Westfall

Absent: J. Burward-Hoy, J. Engelage, D. Hofman, B. Johnson, S. Kettell, M. Lisa, M. Murray,
S. Pate, M. Vazquez, G. Young

Guests: T. Kirk, P. Paul, W. Zajc

The meeting convened at 1145 and was principally devoted to a discussion of RHIC performance, the recent RHIC review (see the link on <http://www.bnl.gov/henp>), the need for remote conferencing capabilities at BNL, and reports from the UEC subcommittees. It was agreed that the next UEC meeting will be held in September.

RHIC Performance and DOE Review

There was a general belief that users are ignorant of many of the factors affecting machine performance. Thomas Rosers' talk at the RHIC review was praised. It was suggested that he repeat it at a "town meeting" type event at which more users could be present. Richard Seto suggested that users would be interested in learning about the funding issues affecting machine operation. Bill Zajc suggested that Thomas be asked to make a presentation at the RHIC/AGS Users' Meeting, to be held at the next DNP meeting."

Vicki Greene said that some reviewers were concerned by a lack of non-US representation in the UEC and that a significant amount of time at the closeout was devoted to this issue. She added that there was general praise for the Users' Center.

Tom Kirk said that one of the conclusions of the review is that BNL is not doing sufficient integrated planning, particularly with the LHC looming in the not-too-distant future. Accordingly, he will develop a plan for R&D and capital construction combined with likely funding scenarios. He said that the strategy for proceeding had been agreed to in a meeting between the RHIC experimental spokespersons, Praveen Chaudhari, Peter Paul, Sam Aronson, and himself. Bill Zajc added that at this meeting Chaudhari said that this would be an excellent opportunity for us to make the case for increased funding, but that a "constant effort" scenario must come first.

Remote Conferencing

Vicki Greene said that there is general user dissatisfaction with the capabilities for remote conferencing at BNL. Peter Yamin said that he would work with Tom Throwe to pursue the matter and arrange for a demonstration at the September UEC meeting.

Subcommittee Reports

Vicki charged Gary Westfall (**Public Affairs**) with planning a UEC lobbying trip to DC, perhaps coordinated with FNAL, Jlab, and SLAC. John Hill described past Public Affairs efforts and offered to help set up a web site to make user-congress communication easier.

Mike Sivertz (**non-US**) said that DOE order 142.1 regarding visas for non-US users is onerous and confusing. He is trying to coordinate amelioration efforts with other UECs and suggested that all UEC chairs meet at least once a year. Tom Kirk said that pressure from congress could change things and suggested that individual users contact their representatives to explain the difficulties they are facing.

The meeting adjourned at 1320.

--Peter Yamin 8/13/03